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From: lisa stefanko <lmstefanko@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 7:45 PM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Cc: Thomas Wade
Subject: Restoration of funding to Ct Independent Living Centers

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To Appropriations Committee:

As a lifelong resident of Connecticut, I am in favor of continued funding for the Independent Living Centers throughout our state. The Centers have provided mentoring, information and advocacy which have helped many people with disabilities to participate in all aspects of community life. Unfortunately, there is still much work to be done, and many people with disabilities continue to be marginalized and denied appropriate access to education, employment, transportation, and many other things that the "non-disabled" take for granted. It is not only the disability community that benefits from the work these centers provide, but also all of us...people with disabilities do not live in a vacuum, they have family, children, friends, coworkers, who will also be affected when there are no Independent Living Centers to advocate and provide guidance. Please vote to continue funding,

Respectfully,

Lisa Stefanko, LCSW